



NEWS BULLETIN 315
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Peace Fellows Battle Child Marriage, Menstrual Banishment, and Domestic Slavery

From the Blogs of the 2018 Advocacy Project Peace Fellows

Ten Peace Fellows are volunteering this summer with AP partner organizations in Uganda, Kenya, Nepal, Vietnam, Jordan, and Zimbabwe. This digest offers an updated snapshot from their most recent blogs. We encourage you to visit their pages and comment.

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Freed domestic workers in Dang District, Nepal

Freed from Domestic Slavery but Still Struggling in Nepal

[Michelle Nyaga](#) is helping her host, Backward Society Education (BASE) to develop training for girls who have escaped domestic servitude (photo). It is hard for the girls (known as *kamlaris*) to advance, particularly as most lack identity cards, which they need to work and own property. BASE

issues temporary ID cards, but as Michelle writes only 500 of the 5,546 *kamlaris* in Dang District have received cards so far: "The fact that they are not recognized by the government as citizens exposes them to many challenges, ranging from denial of basic rights to access employment, housing, education, and healthcare." [Read more.](#)

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Mudiwa was forced to marry after becoming pregnant

Why Mudiwa Got Married in Zimbabwe

[Alexandra Kotowski](#) is working with the Women Advocacy Project (WAP) in Harare to combat child marriage: "Roughly a third of girls in Zimbabwe marry before their eighteenth birthdays. WAP's consultations have shown that limited knowledge of sexual and reproductive health greatly increases the risk of early marriage. Mudiwa, a young woman living in Epworth, told us: 'I left school when I got

pregnant...When my father found out, he chased me away saying, 'I do not want to see you.' So, I had to get married. I was eighteen.'" [Read more.](#)

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Lara and Prakash from CONCERN before a school visit

Educating the Brick Children of Nepal

[Lara Cerosky](#) is working at CONCERN to support the education of 50 children who formerly worked in brick factories. This means making sure that the kids can enjoy a full school experience: "Once a year, all kids enrolled in the 50 Children Program receive their new uniform and school bag. Along with school fees (that include admission and

registration fees, exam fees three or four times a year), CONCERN supports parents with a full range of school necessities such as stationery, school dress, tie and belt, bags and shoes...Last but not least, some schools ask for a library contribution, first aid fees or snack and lunch support." [Read more.](#)

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Masgouf - an Iraqi contribution to world cuisine

Something Fishy in Amman

[Teresa Perosa](#) is working with refugees at the Collateral Repair Project (CRP) in Amman, Jordan. She found the time to appreciate Iraqi *masgouf*: "I will take this moment to appreciate one of the greatest contributions immigrants and refugees make to any society, which is food. Because I mean, what is not to like about food diversity? *Masgouf* is considered one of Iraq's national dishes, a classical

way to prepare fish from the Tigris. It is fairly straightforward: you open the fish in half, season it and grill it in wood-fire or coal. The taste is anything but simple." [Read more.](#)

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Caroline, left and Dipika from CAED, right, in Gutu village

The Cost of Menstrual Banishment in Nepal

[Caroline Armstrong Hall](#) is helping CAED to campaign against menstrual banishment (*chhaupadi*) in Surkhet. Balika, 17, explains what it's like to spend time in the cow shed: "When I had my first period, my mother told me to go to the *chhau goth* [hut], which made me very sad." Caroline continues: "Her mother may have been the one telling her to spend five days in the *chhau goth* every month,

but Balika knows that...her grandmother was the one who believed most fervently that women and girls are untouchable and impure during menstruation, and therefore need to be segregated from the rest of the family." [Read more.](#)

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Caregiver extraordinary: Mrs Toa, 71, manages her devastated family with love and diligence

It Takes Character to Beat Agent Orange in Vietnam

[Marcela De Campos](#) is working with survivors of Agent Orange at the AEPD in Dong Hoi. She recently met with Vo Thi Toa, whose three children have been severely affected by Agent Orange: "Ms. Vo Thi Toa is a 71 year-old powerhouse. She is the head of her household and her family's primary caregiver. Speaking softly yet firmly, she looks to her late husband's, Mr.

Nguyen, portrait every few minutes throughout our conversation. There is discernible pain in her voice and we learn that Mr. Nguyen passed away in 2005 of stomach cancer." [Read more.](#)

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Superwoman: Sarita trains relatives of the disappeared in Bardiya and produce tiger bags from their embroidery

Making Tiger Bags in Nepal

[Komal Thakkar](#) is helping NEFAD to form a cooperative for family members of the disappeared, coordinated by Sarita Thapa: "(Sarita) showed us 8 tiger bags that are ready to be sold and then demonstrated how to put together a tiger bag, which she managed to do in a

whopping 4 hours! Despite the 105 (Fahrenheit!) degree heat, the bag was incredibly precise and absolutely beautiful." [Read more.](#)

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Saying goodbye: Lindsey, right, with her host family

When Appendicitis Strikes in Nepal

[Lindsey Killett](#) went to Nepal hoping to help Care Women Nepal (CWN) organize a health camp for village women with uterine prolapse. After coming down with appendicitis, she was forced to cut short her fellowship: "Two days after getting my staples out in Kathmandu I returned home to the United States. Although I never made it to my final destination I still learned a lot! I am very thankful to have had this

opportunity!" [Read more.](#)

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Colleen Denny and friend in Samburu County

Kids Mean Peace in Kenya

[Colleen Denny](#) is working at Children Peace Initiative Kenya (CPI), which organizes peace camps for children on both sides of tribal conflicts in northwest Kenya. One woman from the Samburu tribe explained the rationale: "Even in families, children are a source of peace. I love my kids, and the Pokot love theirs. The children brought us together." (The woman) also brought up a very interesting point.... She told

us how there is 'a lot of movement between the children,' which also prevents conflict because no thieves will attack a village if they aren't sure whether there are kids from their tribe in that village or not." [Read more.](#)

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Community effort: Parents dig the pit at Awach school

Parents Roll Up Their Sleeves for a School Latrine in Uganda

[Chris Markomanolakis](#) is helping the GDPU to install an accessible toilet at the Awach Primary School. 179 parents showed their commitment by digging the latrine pit. "One by one they stood up to say things like 'Chris I will see you tomorrow morning with my shovel!' And sure enough, at the crack of dawn the parents came in droves to help dig." [Read more.](#)

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This bulletin was written by Corinne Cummings

Thanks to Humanity United for supporting our 2018 program

